

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-24 and 31-34 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 17 being the independent claims. Claims 25-30 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. New claims 31-34 are sought to be added. Claim 16 is sought to be amended. Applicants have also amended the specification to clarify the Cross-Reference to Related Applications information. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-24 are allowed. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowable subject matter.

New Claims

New claims 31-34 depend from allowed claim 17 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17, and further in view of their own features. Furthermore, new claims 31-34 are believed to introduce no new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the entry of claims 31-34.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

The Examiner has rejected claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 29 and 30 are sought to be canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 29 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,055,242 to Doshi *et al.* Claims 25-28 are sought to be canceled, thereby rendering this rejection moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

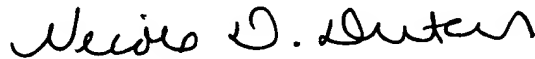
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 01-19-2005

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